



## Fish, Wildlife and Parks Access Program

### Staff Report for PL/PW

February 2023

#### **Block Management**

Staff have been wrapping up the 2022 Block Management season and starting to prepare for spring and fall 2023 hunting seasons. They have been focused on planning landowner dinners, compiling and entering hunter day impact data, and preparing for 2023 contracting.

Staff continue to be engaged with hunters and landowners through game damage hunts, waterfowl season, and late elk shoulder season. Over 1,200 landowners enrolled just over 6.9 million acres in the program in 2022. Landowner payments exceeded \$7.7 million for the 2022-2023 hunting season.

Staff have scheduled dates and locations for upcoming landowner appreciation dinners. Dinners provide an opportunity to extend gratitude and appreciation to landowners that participate in FWP Access Programs. Dinners also provide landowners the opportunity to interact with neighbors, fellow cooperators, and FWP staff.



#### **Unlocking Public Lands/Public Access Land Agreements**

Staff met with our Geographic Data Services (GDS) unit to conduct a geospatial evaluation and paired that with public land leaseholder information to send a direct mail marketing piece to landowners who would qualify for Unlocking Public Lands or Public Access Land Agreements (PALA). Marketing and outreach began via social media, print, radio, direct mail, and television ads started on January 30 and will conclude March 10.



**UNLOCKING  
PUBLIC LANDS**

The PALA Administrative Rule update process is underway- specifically to reduce the 2-mile to 1-mile eligibility to increase landowner interest and improve access to inaccessible public lands. Public notice was made January 13 and to date (January 27) no public comments have been received. Public comment runs through February 13.

#### **Elk Hunting Access Agreements (454 Program)**

Staff are working on updating our internal guidance, the landowner application and program information in preparation for a March 1 - May 15 application period. Staff are also working on the post-season evaluation to provide an understanding of the 2022 program year and will have a report for the June commission meeting.

#### **Recreation Management Areas-Biennial Rule**

Staff met and discussed the future for the properties currently in the program (The Nature Conservancy, Avista, Stimson). The current biennial rule for these properties is set to expire in August of 2023 and FWP is looking to renew existing agreements. Staff are exploring ways for additional capacity to support desires from other large landowners who've expressed interest in enrolling in this program.